

STATE OF WASHINGTON



OF OFFICE OF
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

In the matter of

The Nature Conservancy
Arlington, Virginia

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No. D 2001- 75

STIPULATIONS, FINDINGS,

CONSENT AND ORDER

The Nature Conservancy is a charitable organization and has been issuing charitable gift annuities in the State of Washington, and is therefore governed by Title 48 RCW.

This administrative action is based on allegations by the Commissioner's staff that The Nature Conservancy violated RCW 48.05.030 and Chapter 48.38 RCW, by the activity described in the following numbered paragraphs. To resolve only the issues identified in the following numbered paragraphs, to eliminate the necessity for a hearing, and as a negotiated settlement of the Commissioner's allegations The Nature Conservancy has voluntarily executed the Consent to Order contained herein and stipulates to the entry of the Order contained herein.

STIPULATIONS

1. RCW 48.05.030 provides that no person shall act as an insurer nor transact insurance in this state other than as authorized by a certificate of authority issued to it by the Commissioner.
2. RCW 48.11.020 defines life insurance as including the granting of annuities.
3. Chapter 48.38 RCW provides that certain charitable organizations upon complying with the provisions of the Chapter may, after receiving a certificate of exemption from the Commissioner, conduct a charitable gift annuity business and be exempted from most of the provisions of Title 48 RCW.
4. Beginning in 1987 The Nature Conservancy has issued 83 annuities without having been properly licensed to do so.

FINDINGS

1. The Commissioner finds that The Nature Conservancy, by and through the conduct described above, has violated RCW 48.05.030 and Chapter 48.38 RCW.
2. The Commissioner further finds that RCW 48.38.050 authorizes the Commissioner to refuse to issue a Certificate of Exemption to The Nature Conservancy, for failing to comply with the provisions of Chapter 48.38 RCW.
3. The Commissioner further finds that RCW 48.38.050 authorizes, that in lieu of the refusal to issue a Certificate of Exemption, the Commissioner may assess a fine of not more than \$10,000.

CONSENT TO ORDER

Based on the above and foregoing stipulations, The Nature Conservancy consents to pay the sum of \$350 being the \$25 annual fee for the 14 years it would have had to pay the fee if it had been properly licensed, the sum of \$415 being the \$5 fee for each annuity that it issued if it had been properly licensed, and a fine in the amount One Hundred Dollars and 00/100 (\$100), for a total amount of \$865.

Based on the above and foregoing stipulations, The Nature Conservancy voluntarily consents to the following order to resolve the issues and alleged conduct described herein and with the understanding that the payment of the amount levied against The Nature Conservancy is a condition of the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption to The Nature Conservancy for the conduct described herein.

Based on the above and foregoing stipulations, The Nature Conservancy acknowledges its duty and obligation to fully comply with the applicable laws and regulations of the State of Washington.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2001.

The Nature Conservancy

by: _____

Title: _____

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that pursuant to RCW 48.38.050 and the foregoing Stipulations, Findings, and Consent to Order, The Nature Conservancy pay a total sum in the amount of Eight Hundred Sixty Five Dollars and 00/100 (\$865) for the activity described in the foregoing Stipulation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event that this sum is not paid within 30 days from the date of this order, the sum will be recoverable in a civil action brought on behalf of the Insurance Commissioner by the Attorney General, pursuant to RCW 48.05.185.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS _____ day of _____ 2001.

James T. Odiorne
Deputy Insurance Commissioner